

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Water soluble iron carbohydrate complex obtainable from an aqueous solution of iron (III) salt and an aqueous solution of the oxidation product of one or more maltodextrins using an aqueous hypochlorite solution at a pH-value within the alkaline range, where, when one maltodextrin is applied, its dextrose equivalent lies between 5 and 20, and when a mixture of several maltodextrins is applied, the dextrose equivalent of the mixture lies between 5 and 20 and the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin contained in the mixture lies between 2 and 40.

2. (Original) A process for producing an iron carbohydrate complex according to claim 1, wherein one or more maltodextrins are oxidized in an aqueous solution at an alkaline pH-value using an aqueous hypochlorite solution and the obtained solution is reacted with an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt, where, when one maltodextrin is applied, its dextrose equivalent lies between 5 and 20, and when a mixture of several maltodextrins is applied, the dextrose equivalent of the mixture lies between 5 and 20 and the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrins contained in the mixture lies between 2 and 40.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, wherein the oxidation of the maltodextrin or the maltodextrins is carried out in the presence of bromide ions.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, wherein the iron (III) chloride is used as the iron (III) salt.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, wherein the oxidized maltodextrin and the iron (III) salt are mixed to form an aqueous solution having a pH-value so low that no hydrolysis of the iron (III) salt occurs, whereafter the pH is raised to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 15 °C up to boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

7. (Currently Amended) A medicament containing an aqueous solution of an iron carbohydrate complex according to claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to claim 7 formulated for parenteral or oral application.

9. (Currently Amended) Use of the iron carbohydrate complexes according

to claim 1 for the therapy or prophylaxis of iron deficiency.

10. (Currently Amended) Use of the iron carbohydrate complexes according to claim 1 for the production of a medicament for therapy or prophylaxis of iron deficiency.

11. (Currently Amended) Water-soluble iron carbohydrate complex according to claim 1 for therapy or prophylaxis of iron deficiency.

12. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the iron (III) chloride is used as the iron (III) salt.

13. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the oxidized maltodextrin and the iron (III) salt are mixed to form an aqueous solution having a pH-value so low that no hydrolysis of the iron (III) salt occurs, whereafter the pH is raised to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

14. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein the oxidized maltodextrin and the iron (III) salt are mixed to form an aqueous solution having a pH-value so low that no hydrolysis of the iron (III) salt occurs, whereafter the pH is raised to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

15. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein the oxidized maltodextrin and the iron (III) salt are mixed to form an aqueous solution having a pH-value so low that no hydrolysis of the iron (III) salt occurs, whereafter the pH is

raised to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

16. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 15 °C up to boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

17. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 15 °C up to boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.